

and the work of our Nation's eye banks will prove even more important. I know they are up to this new challenge and Congress must stand behind them.

The first successful transplant of cornea tissue was made more than one hundred years ago. Since then, advancements in medical technology have been phenomenal. Cornea transplants are now among the most common and most successful transplant procedures. More than one million people, ranging in age from nine days to 107 years old, have received eye tissue transplants.

All eye banks are not-for-profit organizations that are community-based and work with local philanthropic organizations, such as Lions Clubs, to educate citizens on the importance of donation. The community-based reach helps contribute to their success. Eye banks facilitate approximately 46,000 sight-restoring transplants each year. In my home state of Georgia, over 1,000 Georgians have been given the gift of sight with the help of the Georgia Eye bank and our ocular transplant physicians. Their success is a testament to their hard work but it also indicates that Congress must join eye banks in the struggle they face everyday.

The Eye Bank Association of America has been vital in advancing the cause of eye donation for the past 45 years. Their efforts to raise awareness and support for eye donation have done wonders for the development of safe and effective transplants. This year marks the 23rd anniversary of Eye Donor Month.

If you are not yet an anatomical gift donor, I encourage you to become one. I know all too well what may seem like a simple check on a card can mean to those awaiting a life-saving or life-enhancing donation. I continue my call and challenge to all Americans to discuss this issue with their families and consider becoming an organ, eye, and tissue donor. Such conversations must take place around the kitchen table, not after a loved one is gone. The process of becoming a donor takes just a few minutes, but its impact can last a lifetime for recipients. I also hope that people consider the merits of donating not just solid organs, but tissue and corneas as well. As our eye banks have proven, being able to give the gift of sight is truly a testament to our medical advancement.

As this month goes on, I encourage my colleagues to recognize the success of eye banks across our Nation and work to increase local awareness about corneal transplants and the importance of donation. Transplants that give the gift of sight change Americans' lives every day, and we must do everything in our power to support this effort. I, for one, will do my part and hope you will join me in saluting our Nation's eye banks during Eye Donor Month.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FULL FISCAL YEAR 2007 FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM/RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in vehement opposition to the proposed elimination of National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) funding, contained in the President's Budget Request, for the second year in a row. I am concerned that some of my colleagues may not understand the severity of the situation that NYSP is facing. If Congress does not provide full FY07 funding for NYSP, the program will be forced to close its doors. This will result in 75,000 of our nation's most vulnerable youth, being left behind next summer.

NYSP uses sports instruction and competition, as a vehicle to enhance self-esteem and respect, among boys and girls from low-income households. Established in 1969, with a \$3 million funding commitment from the White House, NYSP has provided over 2 million participants with instruction in career and educational opportunities, and exposure to the college environment for nearly four decades.

Because I have witnessed, firsthand, the difference that the NYSP program has made in the lives of under served youth in my Congressional District I cannot, in good conscience, sit idly by as this essential program is dismantled. In my Congressional District, Morehouse College has done an outstanding job of running the NYSP program for nearly four decades, serving over 10,000 children throughout Atlanta. The Morehouse College NYSP program is unique, because it has taken great pains to maintain a balance between athletics and academics. Similar to NYSP programs throughout the nation, Morehouse College offers instruction focusing on sports. However, it also includes additional instruction in areas such as: nutrition, drug awareness and prevention, creative writing, and leadership development.

The NYSP program has a tremendous impact on the youth that it serves in my Congressional District. By placing NYSP participants in academic settings, where they receive hundreds of hours of exposure to the benefits of higher education, the participants begin to believe that they, too, can succeed in college and beyond. Furthermore, the mentoring relationships established between the teaching/coaching staff, college student volunteers, and NYSP participants, have resulted in hundreds of former NYSP participants returning to work in the program at Morehouse College as student volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, NYSP is not asking for a handout from Congress. In fact, in 2005 NYSP secured two-thirds of its operating expenses from other public and private sources, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the 202 selected institutions of higher education with which it partners. The Administration knows that NYSP works. Congress knows that NYSP works. Institutions of higher learning in 47 states and the District of Columbia know that NYSP works. Most impor-

tant, over 2 million NYSP participants, and their families, know that it works.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues, especially those serving on the budget and appropriations committees, to reject the President's proposed elimination of the NYSP program, and provide full funding for FY07.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA S. SMITH

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw our colleagues' attention to the pending retirement of Marcia S. Smith from the Congressional Research Service after over thirty years of service to Congress. Marcia is one of the preeminent and most highly respected policy analysts in her field, and while she will remain an active figure in space and telecommunications policy at the National Academy of Sciences, her intelligence, expertise, objectivity and balance will be greatly missed on both sides of Capitol Hill.

Marcia Smith began her career at the Congressional Research Service in 1975, after graduating from Syracuse University with a degree in political science. She quickly became an accomplished and adept analyst in space and aerospace policy, rising to Specialist in Aerospace and Telecommunications Policy, first in the Science Policy Research Division, and then in the Resources, Science and Industry Division, of CRS. In her service to Congress, she has provided background and analytic reports, memoranda, committee prints and expert testimony to Members of Congress and committees of the U.S. Congress on matters concerning U.S. and foreign military and civilian space activities, and on telecommunications issues (and formerly on nuclear energy).

Marcia has been a mentor and advisor to over a dozen CRS analysts and researchers during her time in that organization. She was Section Head for Space and Defense Technologies from 1987-1991, and Section Head for Energy, Aerospace and Transportation Technologies from 1984-1985.

To give my colleagues an idea of how prolific and proficient Marcia Smith has been during service to Congress, she has authored or coauthored over 160 reports and articles on space, nuclear energy, and telecommunications policies and issues. She has testified as an expert witness before House and Senate Committees nearly 20 times, a significant number of those times in front of the committee I chair, the Committee on Science.

I would like to point out 2 instances in which Marcia has served both Congress and her country in an exemplary manner. In both instances, these were circumstances marked by tragedy—when the Space Shuttle *Challenger* was lost at launch on January 28, 1986, and again when the Space Shuttle *Columbia* was lost during re-entry on February 1, 2003. Within hours of the *Challenger* disaster, Marcia was briefing congressional staff and talking to Members of Congress about the technical, policy, and human costs of this accident. She was widely interviewed and quoted by the national and international news media. And in the painful months following the accident,

Marcia worked with Congress to provide oversight, investigation, and new policy directions in our national space program.

In 2003, the unthinkable happened again—another shuttle disaster. And while this occurred on a Saturday, Marcia spent the entire weekend in her office, writing a report that detailed the Columbia program, what we knew then of the accident, and potential congressional outcomes for re-examining the purpose and scope of human space flight. This report was ready for Congress first thing the following Monday morning.

Let me also add that Marcia has helped Congress in so many other areas of space policy that has brought us as a nation forward. She has worked with us on the Mission to Planet Mars, international space policy and issues revolving around the International Space Station, and the President Bush's National Space Policy. She is an expert on the NASA budget, and has a working and encyclopedic knowledge of space launches and flights, going back to the Sputnik launches and the Mercury Program.

In addition, Marcia Smith has exemplified the type of professional growth and development that we in Congress have come to expect from senior-level policy experts at the Congressional Research Service. From 1985–1986, Ms. Smith took a leave of absence to serve as Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission on Space. The Commission, created by Congress and its members appointed by the President, developed long term (50 year) goals for the civilian space program under the chairmanship of (the late) former NASA Administrator Thomas Paine. The Commission published its results in the report *Pioneering the Space Frontier*.

Marcia Smith has continued her professional accomplishments even as she makes this transition in her career. She is a Trustee of the International Academy of Astronautics (and co-chairs the Space Activities and Society Committee, and is a member of the International Space Policies and Plans Committee and the Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee). She has been a member of the Committee on Human Exploration (CHEX) of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' Space Studies Board (1992–93, 1996–97). She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). She serves on AIAA's Ethical Conduct Panel, and the International Activities Committee; was a member of the International Space Year Committee (1989–1992), the Public Policy Committee (1982–1989) and the Space Systems Technical Committee (1986–1989); was an AIAA Distinguished Lecturer (1983–1988); and was a member of the Council of AIAA's National Capital Section (1994–1996). She is a member of the Kettering Group of space observers. She is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and of the Association of U.S. Members of the IISL. She was President of the American Astronautical Society (1985–1986), on its Board of Directors (1982–1985), and Executive Committee (1982–1987, 1988–1989). She is a Life Member of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Washington Academy of Sciences (Board of Directors, 1988–1989). She is a member of Sigma Xi (the honorary scientific research society). Ms. Smith serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Space*

Policy and Space Forum, and is a contributing editor for the Smithsonian Institution's *Air & Space* magazine. She is listed in several "Who's Who" directories, including *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who of American Women*, and *American Men and Women of Science*.

Marcia Smith was also a founder of Women in Aerospace, was its President (1987) and member of its Board of Directors (1984–1990), and is an Emeritus Member. Women in Aerospace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the advancement of women in aerospace and recognizing their achievements. In September 2003, I had the honor of presenting Marcia with the Women in Aerospace Lifetime Achievement Award. In my remarks, I commented that her unselfishness and service to her country served as models for everyone who works for Congress and therefore their country. That holds true today as it did then. And, as a founding member of Women in Aerospace, Marcia has clearly made a mark on supporting the role of women professionals in the space community.

Marcia once said of her position at CRS, that working for Congress, she was extremely busy, put in long hours, often became exhausted—but never bored. Members of Congress and the Committees they serve on have been the beneficiaries of this work ethic, high levels of thoroughness and competence, and keen analytical skills. I would ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognize and thank Marcia Smith for the contributions she has made during her time with the Congressional Research Service, and her outstanding performance and service to Congress, and for the American people.

**CONGRATULATING KRISTAL KOGA
ON BEING NAMED GUAM'S 2006
WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION
OF THE YEAR**

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Ms. Kristal Koga, on being named 2006 Women in Business Champion of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office.

Ms. Koga is an accomplished designer and owns the "Kristal Kollection" clothing line. Her hard work and keen business sense has made her a well known and well established businesswoman on Guam. Her commitment to use her vast skills and knowledge to foster and mentor young women pursuing careers in business is what makes her especially deserving of this recognition as "Women in Business Champion."

Ms. Koga is serving, or has served in numerous organizations dedicated to improving the lives of women around the world, including the Soroptimist International of the Marianas, where she is a current member and served as the immediate past-president; the Federation of Asian Pacific Women's Association, where she is currently serving as treasurer; and the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, where she serves as the vice president.

I congratulate Kristal for being selected as the 2006 Women in Business Champion of the

Year. I join our island community in celebrating her distinction. Kristal, we are all proud of you and we wish you continued prosperity.

**IN HONOR OF THE 890TH
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize before this House the courageous men and women of the 890th Transportation Company, who just days ago returned from their deployment overseas.

For nearly one year, the Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin-based 890th served under perilous conditions in Iraq, delivering vital supplies to their comrades throughout the country. The vast majority of their missions took place in the Sunni Triangle—home to some of the most intense violence in Iraq. However, despite the threat of roadside bombs and surprise attacks, the brave men and women of this unit faithfully and successfully executed their duties. And, although they encountered enemy engagement on nearly 40 percent of their missions, the unit suffered zero casualties.

Mr. Speaker, there's no question the 890th Transportation Company helped nourish the seeds of freedom and democracy in Iraq, and their service and sacrifice are to be commended. It is my honor to recognize their brave efforts today, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say thank you. They are our genuine heroes.

**HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
SORORITY, INC. AND THE IMPORTANCE
OF BLACK FRATERNAL,
SOCIAL AND CIVIC INSTITUTIONS**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the importance of black fraternal, social and civic institutions to the African-American community and to America as a whole. 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first continuous, collegiate black Greek letter fraternity. This is remarkable when you think of the social and political climate of 1906—where we were almost 50 years away from *Brown v. Board of Education* or Rosa Parks refusing to give up her bus seat. During this era of Jim Crow, black fraternal, social and civic institutions refused to accept this imposed inferiority, and banded together to provide support and promote solutions.

I am a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the oldest black Greek letter fraternity founded by collegiate women. Founded in 1908 at Howard University, AKA was established in order to provide social and intellectual enrichment through member interactions.